Northwest Climate Science Center
Climate Boot Camp - Grooming the Next Generation of Climate Experts

Training the next generation of scientists and practitioners to continue the work of meeting the challenge of an evolving climate is one of the key objectives of the Department of the Interior (DOI) Climate Science Centers and the U.S. Geological Survey National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center. Consistent with this guidance, the Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC) has made the provision of education and training a key objective in the implementation of its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan. This priority is the driving force behind the Climate Boot Camp, a unique, annual week-long interdisciplinary training program organized, staffed and supported through the collaborative efforts of the NW CSC and university partners (Oregon State University, University of Idaho, and University of Washington). The NW CSC is one of eight regional Climate Science Centers established by the DOI and coordinates the expertise of federal and university scientists to provide scientific information and tools necessary to address federal, state, and tribal resource managers' priorities in response to climate change.

The Climate Boot Camp brings together highly-qualified graduate students and early career scientists from DOI Climate Science Centers, Northwest universities, federal agencies, tribes and non-governmental organizations. Attendees are nominated by their host institution or employment entity, and come from a range of research backgrounds, including geology, hydrology, biology, economics and climate/habitat modeling. These "recruits" are connected with an instruction corps selected from the nationally recognized Northwest network of climate practitioners. Predicated on transferring the wisdom, knowledge and expertise of these established experts, Climate Boot Camp provides participants with integrative training in climate impacts science, communication of science, and an improved understanding of the application of science to resource management decision making.

The one week course includes field trips, skill-building exercises, and presentations by leading climate scientists, communications experts, and resource managers to give participants an all-encompassing view of the workings of climate impacts science. The teaching curriculum is designed to introduce students to distinct management contexts and improve their knowledge of and ability to explain fundamental components of regional climate and climate adaptation. Students are exposed to the different codes and modalities of climate scientists and decision makers and learn to improve their oral communication skills for various relevant target audiences. The expectation following this intense training is to provide an educational baseline that helps develop a cadre of climate scientists and climate resource managers and policy makers. This outcome is integral to meeting the many challenges associated with the management of natural and cultural resources when considering on-going and predicted changes in climactic conditions.

The Climate Boot Camp was first offered in 2011 at the University of Washington Pack Forest Conference Center in Eatonville, Washington. Eleven students participated in that session. In 2012, the Climate Boot Camp session was held at the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest in Blue River, Oregon. Fifteen students attended the 2012 session.

2011 Climate Boot Camp students:

Jake Wolf	University of Idaho
Ronda Strauch	University of Washington
Jesse Langdon	University of Washington
John Peters	University of Washington
Tracy Fuentes	U.S. Geological Survey; University of Washington
Krista Jones	U.S. Geological Survey
Rachel Reagan	U.S. Geological Survey
Sarah Frey	Oregon State University
Seth Wiggins	Oregon State University
Sihan Li	Oregon State University
Justin Ohlschlager	Portland State University (Coop)

2012 Climate Boot Camp students:

Lindsey Thurman	Oregon State University
Colette Gantenbein	University of Idaho
Brittany Jones	University of Washington
Michelle Staudinger	U.S. Geological Survey
Haunani Kane	University of Hawai'i; Pacific Climate Science Center
Nick Hardy	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Marketa Zimova	University of Montana
Patricia Tillmann	National Wildlife Federation
Rosemary "Rosie" Records	CSU North Central Climate Science Center
Winslow Hansen	University of Alaska Fairbanks; Alaska Climate Science Center
Toni Klemm	University of Oklahoma; South Central Climate Science Center
Tyson Wepprich	North Carolina State University; Southeast Climate Science Center
Whitney Temple	U.S. Geological Survey
Erin Corwine	University of Idaho; REACCH (Regional Approaches to Climate Change)
Isabel Guerrero	Oregon State University